

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 AGR-01
JUSE-00 DOEE-00 SSO-00 /169 W
-----017529 041842Z /44

P 041813Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1637
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USMTN

ACTION STR
PASS AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: THAILAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MTN

REF: GENEVA 9620

1. US MTN DEL RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED JUNE
30 CONTAINING THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THAILAND'S INITIAL
CONTRIBUTION TO THE MTN:

QUOTE: WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT
OF THE ONGOING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, I AM
PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THE
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POSITION THAT IT WILL MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MTN IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE LAID DOWN IN PARAGRAPH 5
OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION, NAMELY THAT CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD
BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL AND TRADE
NEEDS OF MY COUNTRY. MOREOVER, THE NATURE, QUANTITY AND
TIMING OF CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE DECIDED UPON BY THE THAI
GOVERNMENT, HAVING DUE REGARD FOR THE NET BENEFITS TO BE

OBTAINED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS.

ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PRINCIPLE AND CONSIDERATIONS THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED ON A NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MTN.

A) THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SEEK PROVISIONAL ACCESSION TO THE GATT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MTN. A FORMAL APPLICATION WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GATT INDICATES THAT A FINAL DECISION ON ACCESSION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE THAI AUTHORITIES HAVING REGARD, INTER ALIA, TO THE RESULTS OF THE MTN; AND THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT EXPECTS, IN CONNECTION WITH ANY DECISION TO SEEK FULL ACCESSION, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CONTRACTING PARTIES AND THAILAND WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION AND OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE TRADE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS DECISION IS OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND BECAUSE IT SIGNIFIES AN IMPORTANT COMMITMENT TOWARDS TRADE LIBERALISATION AND GREATER DISCIPLINE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SYSTEM.

B) WITH RESPECT TO THE VARIOUS DRAFT CODES OF CONDUCT AND STANDARDS, THAILAND MAINTAINS A POSITION SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ITS ASEAN PARTNERS AND SOME OTHER DEVELOPING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES IN THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO LIBERALIZE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PRACTICES IF SUCH EFFORTS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ACCORDINGLY PROVIDE SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT FOR THEM.

C) REGARDING THE REQUEST BY THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING CERTAIN PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTERESTS IN THAILAND, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY REDUCED TARIFFS TO THE RATE OR NEAR THE RATE REQUESTED ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

84.1023 - FUEL PUMPS FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.
84.0101 - STEAM AND OTHER VAPOUR GENERATING BOILERS,
- CAPACITY OF 1-10 TONS.
84.1706 - STERILISING APPARATUS, PASTEURISERS.
84.1803 - CENTRIFUGES.
84.1910 - PARTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR CLEANING, FILLING,
- CLOSING, PACKING, AERATING MACHINERY AND DISH-
- WASHING MACHINES.
84.2301 - EXCAVATIONS.
84.2302 - GRADERS, LEVELLERS, SCRAPERS.
84.2310 - PARTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR EXCAVATING, LEVELLING

- ETC., MACHINERY FOR EARTH MINERALS.
84.4021 - INDUSTRIAL WASHING LAUNDRY, DRY CLEANING
- MACHINERY.
84.4702 - LATHES FOR WORKING WOOD, CORK, BONE, EBONITE
- ETC.
84.0601 - GAS AND GASOLINE ENGINE FOR AIRCRAFT.

INDEED, ON TWO ITEMS, 47.0102 (PULP OTHER THAN WOOD PULP)
AND 47.0107 (SULPHITE WOOD PULP BLEACHED OTHER THAN DIS-
SOLVING GRADES), THE APPLIED TARIFF IS LOWER THAN THE
RATE REQUESTED.

WITH RESPECT TO OTHER ITEMS ON THE INDICATIVE LISTS OF THE
UNITED STATES, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND SOME DIFFI-
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CULTIES IN RESPONDING TO THEM. THAILAND BEING A DEVELOPING

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COUNTRY, FACING SERIOUS BALANCE OF TRADE AND PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, CERTAIN IMPORT DUTIES ARE CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT TO ITS NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL NEEDS. FURTHER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE REQUESTS BY THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY ON THE INDUSTRIAL SIDE RELATE TO ITEMS WITH ALREADY LOW RATES OF TARIFF. NEVERTHELESS, THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE REQUESTS WHERE POSSIBLE, AND AT THIS STAGE SOME OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE INDICATED SUCH AS:

02.02 - RECLASSIFICATION FOR TURKEY FRESH, FROZEN.

16.02 - RECLASSIFICATION FOR CANNED TURKEY.

08.0420 - RAISIN

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08.0601 - FRESH APPLES.

90.2830 - OSCILLOSCOPES AND OSCILLOGRAPHS.

D) THE QUESTION OF TARIFF BINDINGS IS TREATED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT WITH GREAT INTEREST AND ATTENTION, IN THE LIGHT OF THAILAND'S RECENT DECISION TO SEEK PROVISIONAL ACCESSION TO THE GATT. DECISION ON THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION WILL NECESSARILY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S TRADE NEEDS AND INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM THE MTN AND THEIR LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS TO THAILAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM. BEING MINDFUL OF THE PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR ACCESSION TO THE GATT, THE THAI GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO ITS BEST TO REACH A DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED.

THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE MTN AND IT IS HOPED THAT ITS TRADE PARTNERS WOULD TAKE THIS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THEY REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENTS ON THEIR OFFERS TO THAILAND. IN ADDITION, SINCE A REVIEW OF THE OFFERS BY THE UNITED STATES TO THAILAND SHOWS A NUMBER OF PRODUCTS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF ECONOMIC EXCEPTIONS, IT IS THE HOPE OF MY DELEGATION THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION COULD STILL BE GIVEN AND FOR THIS REASON I AM SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THE ENCLOSED REQUEST LIST OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT. END QUOTE.

2. THE LIST FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT MENTIONED IN LAST PARAGRAPH OF LETTER REQUESTS FULL

AUTHORITY MFN CUTS, THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH
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CUTS, OR IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, FASTER STAGING, ON THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS: 11301; 14898; 16184; 16546; 31580;
31585; 31590; 31595; 3803935; 3808420; 3820401; 3820439;
3820443; 3821220; 3823322; 3827801; 3827807; 3827851;
3827859; 3828106; 3828110; 6876031; 6876036; 6876043;
6876081; 72026; 72028; 72030; 72710; 3800650; 3802782;
3802787; 3802789; 3802792; 3802797; 3802799; 3803925;
3803927; 3803929; 3820660; 3820670; 3821202; 3821206;
3821214; 3821218; 3828102.

3. LETTER WITH ATTACHMENT WILL BE SENT VIA AIRGRAM TO
WASHINGTON.

4. DRAFTED BY SWAIN. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: STATE
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